MOON KNIGHT™

MARVEL

#5

LEMIRE
SMALLWOOD
STOKOE
FRANCAVILLA
TORRES
BELLAIRE
GARLAND

MERCENARY MARC SPECTOR DIED IN EGYPT UNDER A STATUE OF THE MOON GOD KHONSHU. IN THE SHADOW OF THE ANCIENT DEITY, MARC RETURNED TO LIFE AND TOOK ON KHONSHU'S ASPECT TO FIGHT CRIME FOR HIS OWN REDEMPTION. HE WENT COMPLETELY INSANE AND DISAPPEARED FOR A TIME, BUT RETURNED TO PROTECT THOSE WHO TRAVEL BY NIGHT. AT LEAST HE THINKS THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED...

MOON KNIGHT

WELCOME TO NEW EGYPT: PART 5 OF 5

AFTER EVADING HIS DOCTOR AND ORDERLIES (OR WAS IT AMMUT AND HER SERVANTS?) MARC SPECTOR HAS PUT THE SANITARIUM FAR BEHIND HIM. BUT OF THE FOUR FRIENDS AND FELLOW PATIENTS WHO ESCAPED WITH HIM, ONLY MARLENE REMAINS. CRAWLEY TRADED HIS SOUL TO ANUBIS, FRENCHIE WAS KILLED BY SOBEK, AND GENA DECIDED TO STAY IN HER DINER TO WAIT OUT THE APPARENT INVASION OF NEW YORK CITY BY EGYPTIAN GODS. AT LEAST MARLENE'S STARTED TO REMEMBER MARC AS STEVEN GRANT, AND EVEN AS MOON KNIGHT.

BUT IT LOOKS LIKE MARC MAY HAVE MET HIS GREATEST CHALLENGE YET...MOON KNIGHT?

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THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE! YOU CAN'T BE REAL! WHAT ARE YOU?

I AM HERE TO PROTECT THE TRAVELERS OF THE NIGHT. MARLENE, COME TO ME, CAREFULLY. THAT MAN *IS INSANE.*

MARLENE?

MARLENE, DON'T!

SHE BELONGS WITH ME.

NO!

THIS IS AS FAR AS YOU'RE GOING TO GET, MARC. THIS IS THE END OF THE LINE.

WHAT ARE YOU?!

YOU KNOW WHAT I AM!

I'M *YOU* BEFORE YOU *LOST YOUR MIND.* STOP STRUGGLING. LET ME END THIS!

I AM NOT INSANE!

UNGH!

WHUMP

YOU DON'T KNOW *WHAT* YOU ARE!

MARLENE!

MARLENE...

...ARE YOU IN HERE?

WHAT THE #$%@?

MARLENE?

GRRRRRR!!

GRRRRRR!!
GRRRRR!!
GRRRRR!!
HRRRR!!
GRRR!!
HRRRRRR!
HRRR!!
HRRR!
GRRR!!
HRRR!
GRRRR!!
GRAAO!!
GRRR!
NO!
G-GET AWAY FROM--

--ME?

?!

S. GRAN

STEVEN, YOU'RE HERE!

WHA-- MARLENE?! WHAT-- WHAT ARE YOU WEARING?

MY STUPID COSTUME, SILLY.

I--I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

YOU WILL. THERE IS ONE THING I NEED TO TELL YOU, THOUGH.

WHAT?

EXIT

YOU SHOULD GET GOING. *THEY* WILL BE HERE ANY SECOND.

WHO?

WELL, WELL, BILLY. LOOK WHO WE FOUND!

OUR LUCKY DAY, BOBBY!

NOW YOU GOT ME WORKING UP A SWEAT, SPECTOR!

BILLY DON'T LIKE TO SWEAT!

GONNA HAVE TO TEACH YOU A LESSON!

TODAY!
HOT XXX FILMS
LIVE GIRLS
SEXY
TOMORROW!
PRIVATE DANCERS
JUST FOR YOU
25¢ PEEP SHOWS
ERAMA
O-MI
LIVE NUDE GIRLS!
XXX MOVIES
BOOKS MAGS
25¢
HEY, JAKE. HOW YOU DOING TONIGHT? FEEL LIKE SOME COMPANY?
FRAN CAVIL '16
N-NO THANK YOU.
SEX
SEX
TOYS NOVELTIES FILMS
XXX
SUIT YOURSELF.
MOV
HONK
HONK
TAXI

NOT SO FAST, MARC! WE GOTTA TAKE YOU BACK TO THE HOSPITAL!

NO!

HOLD STILL, SPECTOR! THIS IS AS FAR AS YOU GO!

LIVE GIRLS

BOY OH BOY, BILLY. DR. AMMUT IS SURE GONNA BE HAPPY WITH US IF WE GET SPECTOR BACK.

SHE'S REAL MAD AT YOU FOR LOSING CRAWLEY, MARC.

I'M NEVER GOING BACK TO THAT HOSPITAL!

YOU HEAR ME?

NEVER!

T-Click

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS! MAKE IT--

--STOP?

AH, KHONSHU'S PUP. COME TO FINISH ME OFF, HAVE YOU?

SETH, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?

WHAT DO YOU *THINK* HAPPENED?

YOU DID THIS. ALL OF THIS. I--I WAS SENT TO KILL YOU.

HA! IS THAT WHAT HE TOLD YOU? AND YOU FOLLOWED... A PUPPET ON A STRING.

NONE OF THIS IS MY DOING. *HE* DID THIS. ENSLAVED ME!

WHO? WHO DID THIS?

WHO DO YOU THINK?

GO TO HIM, PUP. GO TO HIM!

YOU MADE IT. I HAD MY DOUBTS...

WHO ARE YOU? WHO ARE YOU, *REALLY?*

YOU KNOW WHO I AM. YOU'VE *ALWAYS* KNOWN.

NO.

YES...

KHONSHU?!

I NEEDED YOU, MY SON. I NEEDED YOU AND YOU CAME TO ME AGAINST ALL ODDS.

YOU LIED. YOU SAID SETH DID ALL OF THIS-- TO NEW YORK, TO ME. BUT IT WAS *YOU.*

WHY? I--I DID *EVERYTHING* YOU ASKED OF ME.

YES. YOU ARE A LOYAL SERVANT, MARC SPECTOR. AND NOW I MUST ASK *ONE FINAL THING* OF YOU. THIS BODY IS WEAK, DYING...

...I NEED YOURS.

YOUR MIND IS BROKEN, MARC. YOU KNOW THIS.

I-- YES.

THEN LET ME TAKE THE PAIN AWAY. LET ME IN AND IT WILL ALL STOP. THE PAIN, THE CONFUSION.

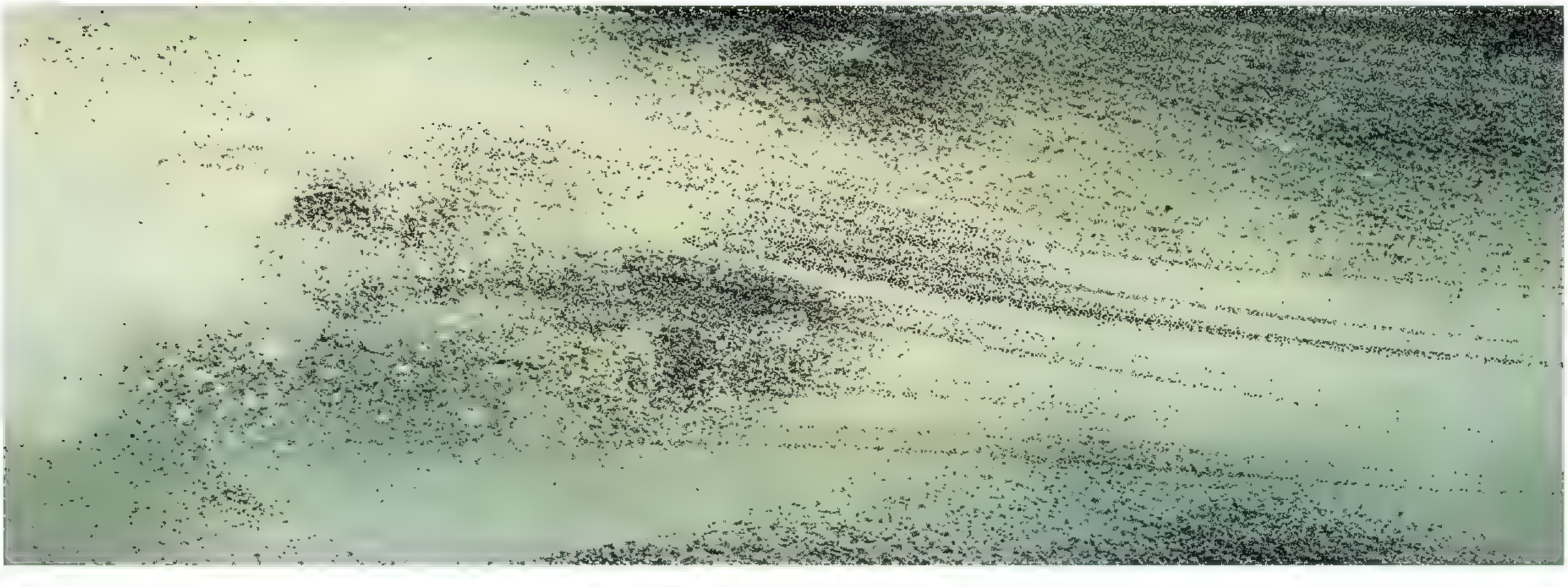
YOU KNOW YOU JUST WANT PEACE, MARC. IT CAN ALL END NOW. GIVE ME YOUR BODY, YOUR MIND, SO I CAN BE BORN INTO THIS WORLD.

YOU HAVE SERVED ME WELL, CHILD. NOW YOU CAN REST. YOUR WORK IS DONE. YOU CAN BE FREE.

NO.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "NO"?!

I WILL NEVER LET YOU HAVE ME!



UNGH!

MARLENE?

HOW MANY OTHER ACTRESSES DO YOU BRING HOME, STEVEN?!

WHAT--WHAT DID YOU CALL ME?

WHY ARE YOU ACTING SO WEIRD, STEVEN? YOU'RE FREAKING ME OUT A LITTLE BIT.

WHAT? YOU DON'T REMEMBER MY NAME?

YOU SHOULD GET DRESSED. WE HAVE AN EARLY CALL TIME, REMEMBER?

"CALL TIME"?

→SIGH← YES. WE'RE SHOOTING THE ***PYRAMID SCENE*** TODAY. AND I DON'T WANT TO BE AROUND THE CREEPY DIRECTOR WITHOUT YOU THERE LOOKING OUT FOR ME, MR. PRODUCER MAN.

SO GET DRESSED, OKAY?

THE END?

MOONIE MISSIVES

Write to mheroes@marvel.com and mark your letters "OKAY TO PRINT."

HEY MOONIES!

WHOA! How about THAT madness?! HUGE thanks to our incredible guest artists (Wilfredo doing Steven Grant, Francesco doing Jake Lockley, and James Stokoe doing the Knight of the Moon) who will be sticking around as poor Marc's mind fractures even further. The gauntlet Marc's going to go through…it's going to be something to see.

But enough hyping the future, let's get to your luna-lovin' letters!

Dear MOON KNIGHT team,

So far I am really enjoying this new series about Moon Knight. I've always been interested in Moon Knight, but have never read any of his comics until now. I love the story so far because it makes me curious, and I wonder if Moon Knight's career as a hero was real or just all in his head. The reason I like Moon Knight is because I'm a psych major, and Moon Knight's psychological problems go perfectly with what I love to study. Keep up the great work, and I am looking forward to what happens next, and the conclusion of this series.

All the best,
Steve Quintero
Fontana, CA

Psych Major Steve, I'd love to hear what you think of this issue AND the issues to follow! Write back and let us know, there are a lot more head trips to come for both Marc and readers alike!

I was a huge fan of the 2014-2015 MOON KNIGHT series, and I was disappointed when I never got an issue #18. However, that series did occasionally feel as if it wasn't going anywhere. I blame it on the constantly changing creative team. In addition to that, there have been many post-SECRET WARS series startups that were...less than I had hoped for. Lemire and Smallwood's MOON KNIGHT blew me away. Right away, there was a purpose to Marc Spector again (purpose is something I feel a lot of the Marvel heroes are starting to lack), and by the second issue I was getting a wonderful Moon Knight vibe. Marc Spector/Moon Knight is a very tricky character to portray well, but I think this new series may be my favorite I'm reading because of how well he is being displayed. I can tell that this series is going to give me quite a bit of anxiety, but I truly can't wait for the next issue. Thank you.

Kalan C.

Hey Kalan, if your anxiety gets too bad, try reaching out to Steve from Fontana, maybe he can help you through it! One thing I love about comics is seeing different people interpret characters. I come from a theater background and used to love seeing different actors take on the same role, or even watch one great actor work through a character in rehearsal. It's amazing how much flexibility there is within the confines of a character, and comics does a better job of exploring that than just about any medium. I'm glad this Moon Knight is working for you!

Evening, all!

Just wanted to express my joy and adulation...The new MOON KNIGHT series is two issues into the run and it is already my favorite book currently being published. Simply perfect.

Now, being a filmmaker for 15 years, I always read comics with a cinematic eye and ear. I fill in the action between panels, having the book run in my head as a movie, and one way I do this is by reading the characters' dialogue in actors' voices… Soooooo, here are my picks for a MOON KNIGHT movie or Netflix series (fingers crossed!):

Marc Spector: Bradley Cooper
Dr. Emmet: Christina Hendricks
Jean-Paul Duchamp: Vincent Cassel
Crawley: Jeff Bridges
…and Laurence Fishburne as the voice of Khonshu!

Make mine MARVEL!
Regan Wood

WHOA! Regan, that is some EXCELLENT casting! Maybe TOO good; I don't know if I'll be able to read these characters without hearing those voices now. Thank goodness they're all GREAT actors! What about Gena and Marlene? Billy and Bobby?

So I was just wondering two things: What is it like to tackle a character with such a large past of mental health issues? And is Marc Spector cured? Because he knows he's just Marc now, so the mental cracks seem like they don't exist except for the Moon Knight personality.

Brandon

Well, Brandon, as you can see from this issue, Marc's mental state might not be as solid as it may have appeared. He's got a lot to wrestle with, and it's going to get a lot worse before it gets better. As for the first question, not to speak for Jeff, but we've all given a lot of consideration to the fine line between the very real and challenging world of living with mental illness and the fictional situation Marc Spector inhabits. What we want most is to tell a compelling story about Marc Spector, so looking at how his mental illness has been portrayed and finding both his strengths and weaknesses within that is the foundation of what Jeff's doing here, and I for one think it's making a pretty fantastic, emotionally gripping story.

I've been trying to save money and spend less on comics, but the moment I spotted MOON KNIGHT #1, my wallet was open in the blink of an eye. The last run on the character is one of the pieces in my longbox I'm proudest of, and I'm so excited to collect more.

I absolutely love this twist of making Marc question his sanity even further, and that ending shot of the city turned into an Egyptian wasteland is one of the most effective things I've seen in a Marvel comic for a "lesser known" character.

Issue #2 was just as wonderful, and I cannot wait to see where this leads. The only real gripe I have is this: Why haven't we seen this guy on the big screen yet?!

Another traveler of the Knight,
Max Goettemoeller

Max, work with Regan to get Bradley Cooper on the phone! Have his people call my people, we'll do lunch!

Dear Jeff,

I have been a big fan of your work for several years, spanning various titles. However, I think that the latest MK arc may be your magnum opus. Rarely have I found my heart pounding as I turned each page of a comic. You tapped into a fear often featured in movies: being trapped in an insane asylum when you may or may not be crazy.

I completely disagree with a "professional"

review of MK #1 that said you rushed too quickly into the "big reveal." Your pacing was perfect. I was eagerly anticipating every page. Not only was I unsure of what Marc was experiencing, I was unsure of what I was seeing. In one panel, I wanted to ask Dr. Emmet for her number. In another, I was shrieking in horror.

Eagerly awaiting MK #4. This easily rivals the arc done by the great Warren Ellis. Well done.

DeWayne
New York City

Hey DeWayne! I agree, I think Jeff's pacing on this story is absolute dynamite. I could see it being too rushed if that reveal was all Jeff had, but the story he's spooling out in this book is so vast and fascinating that we felt no hesitation at all to pull the trigger on that image in issue #1. I also agree that Dr. Emmet is quite a dish. The updo, glasses, and frilly blouse are a pretty irresistible combination. The giant alligator head... not so much.

To the editors, in regards to MOON KNIGHT #1-3,

The most recent MOON KNIGHT series has given me a hero to look up to that I never thought I would have.

As someone who has dealt with the stigma of having a mental illness, I can say that it is not easy. Having a hero who I can really identify with on this level has helped me become okay with who I am, process my past, and begin to feel pride again.

I have been a Marvel comics reader since I first bought MAXIMUM CARNAGE #3 on the grocery stands when I was 8 years old but, this is my first letter to you all.

Thank you for being a formational element in my life,
Sean Harvey

Thank YOU for your letter, Sean, it means the world to us. One of the great things about Marc Spector is how, regardless of what his mental state is, no matter what world he inhabits, he fights to do right, protect those around him, and be a hero. Like everyone, he is not his circumstances, he is how he deals with them.

I don't write in often, but I am an older Marvel fan. I just wanted to give kudos to this current MOON KNIGHT run. It's blowing my hair back!

Lemire, Smallwood, and Bellaire are a dream team and I am hooked!

Our local shop, Bazinga Comics, here in San Antonio, even got a variant cover by artist Chris Stevens and it was the start of a new era with MK for me.

"You alone must be a light against the infinite dark."

Keep doing what you do best, Marvel!
Seth Quillen

We're so happy to hear we're blowing your hair back! As someone who seems to have less and less of it every day, let me say, enjoy that feeling, Seth! Also, that Stevens variant is pretty damn rad. Tell the ladies and gentlemen at Bazinga they've got great taste!

Dear team MOON KNIGHT,

I honestly have never read a MOON KNIGHT comic book before this series. I was aware of the character, but not his backstory or anything. When I saw that Lemire (who does an AMAZING job with EXTRAORDINARY X-MEN and OLD MAN LOGAN) was writing the new series, I thought it'd be the perfect time to check out who this dude really was. Boy, am I glad I did! After reading issue #1, I made sure to add it to my pull list during my next visit to the comic shop.

What I love about this series is that it's kind of secluded from the rest of the Marvel Universe. Don't get me wrong, I love the MU, but the insane asylum and New Egypt setting created this sort of horror movie atmosphere, and it's such a great change of pace for a Marvel hero. But I would definitely like to see Marc team up with Spidey or Daredevil later on down the road, for sure!

Anyways, I just finished reading issue #3 and Lemire and Smallwood knocked it out of the park again! I mean, mummies?! Can't get much cooler/creepier than that! I haven't felt this excited for the next issue of a comic book in a while, I love it! Keep doing what you're doing, can't wait to see what else is in store for Moon Knight and the gang!

Sincerely,
Alexander Nagata
Bermuda Dunes, CA

Hey Alexander, welcome to THE MOON KNIGHT fandom! Where all the cool kids hang out! No plans for a team-up yet, but who knows what the future holds? But hey, mummies, right? How awesome is that?!

Hi, I'm Branden Del Rio from Orlando, FL, and I've gotta say I am loving the new MOON KNIGHT series! It's incredibly written--it really is difficult to tell whether Marc is crazy or not, but I love that mystery. In my opinion, I don't think he's crazy. He's the Moon Knight! Not to mention the illustration works perfectly for the character and the story. Please keep the story running! I can't get enough!

Brandon, how's the big reveal this issue treating you? Who actually IS Moon Knight? And what about that final page? The ground is only getting more slippery under Marc's feet, and there's plenty more story coming your way!

I first found MOON KNIGHT by accident. I was looking for an interesting character that was not well-known. After seeing Marc, I find him to be amazing, but also sort of crazy. Well, massively crazy, but I found this intriguing because I myself have struggled with mental health issues. I think of Moon Knight as a reminder that you might have a few things wrong in your head, but it doesn't mean that you can't be a hero.

Jesse Peterson-Timmons

Hey Jesse, We've heard from a number of people who have struggled with mental health issues saying exactly what you just did. It's great to hear that people are finding heroes they can relate to so strongly, and feel so represented. I'm thrilled to hear the book is working so well for you, and happy to welcome you to the wonderful world of MOON KNIGHT!

Hello Marvel,

My name's Josh and I just started reading the latest MOON KNIGHT comics. After a good read I'm up to Issue #3, and I can personally say that they are the definition of awesome in my eyes! Thanks so much for the great read; I'd be over the moon (see what I did there) if you read this.

Many thanks,
Josh Neale

(P.S. I should totally be in one of these awesome comics.)

Josh, buddy, have you seen what happens to people in these comics? They get bitten on the neck by crocodiles and sell their souls for transit! I don't know if that's where you want to hang out, man. However, I will tip my hat to you for the awesome "over the moon" bit. Your wordplay game is strong.

That's all we've got room for this month! Come back for some movie mayhem next issue. If you thought an Egypt-infused New York was wild, just wait until things go Hollywood.

Until then, stay weird!
-Jake T.

ZONE